



BirdList PA

Bird Scavenger Hunt Checklist

Explore your local park and check off common Pennsylvania birds as you spot them.

Location:
Date:
Birder Name(s):

Season: Year-Round



American Robin

Description:

9–11 inches. The American Robin is a familiar backyard bird with a gray back, warm orange-red chest, and a cheerful song often heard in early morning.

Habitat:

Lawns, parks, forests, suburban neighborhoods.

Fun Fact:

Robins can tilt their heads to listen for earthworms moving underground before pulling them out.



Northern Cardinal

Description:

8–9 inches. The Northern Cardinal is known for its bright red color in males and soft tan coloring with red accents in females, along with a pointed crest.

Habitat:

Woodlands, gardens, shrub-filled yards, suburban neighborhoods.

Fun Fact:

Unlike many birds, cardinals do not migrate and stay in Pennsylvania year-round.



Blue Jay

Description:

9–12 inches. The Blue Jay is a bold blue, white, and black bird known for its loud calls and confident behavior.

Habitat:

Forests, wooded neighborhoods, parks with oak trees.

Fun Fact:

Blue Jays can imitate hawk calls to scare other birds away from food.



Mourning Dove

Description:

9–13 inches. The Mourning Dove is a soft gray-brown bird with a small head and long tail, often seen perched on wires.

Habitat:

Open woodlands, fields, farms, suburban areas.

Fun Fact:

Its gentle, sad-sounding call is what gives the Mourning Dove its name.



Red-bellied Woodpecker

Description:

9–10 inches. This medium-sized woodpecker has black-and-white striped wings and a bright red cap on its head.

Habitat:

Forests, wooded suburbs, parks with mature trees.

Fun Fact:

Despite its name, the red on its belly is faint and often hard to see.



Mallard

Description:

20–26 inches. Mallards are large ducks; males have shiny green heads, while females are mottled brown.

Habitat:

Ponds, lakes, streams, wetlands, park waterways.

Fun Fact:

Mallards are the ancestors of most domesticated ducks worldwide.



American Crow

Description:

16–21 inches. The American Crow is a large, all-black bird known for its intelligence and strong social groups.

Habitat:

Forests, farmland, towns, cities.

Fun Fact:

Crows can recognize human faces and remember people who treat them well—or badly.



Downy Woodpecker

Description:

5–7 inches. The Downy Woodpecker is a small black-and-white woodpecker with a short beak and light tapping sound.

Habitat:

Woodlands, parks, backyards with trees or feeders.

Fun Fact:

It is the smallest woodpecker in North America.



Gray Catbird

Description:

8–9 inches. The Gray Catbird is a sleek gray bird with a black cap and a rusty-colored patch under its tail.

Habitat:

Dense shrubs, thickets, forest edges.

Fun Fact:

Its call sounds like a cat’s “meow,” which is how it got its name.



Tree Swallow

Description:

5–6 inches. Tree Swallows have glossy blue-green backs and white bellies and are often seen flying gracefully.

Habitat:

Open fields, wetlands, areas near water.

Fun Fact:

Tree Swallows catch insects while flying and skim water to drink.

Season: Winter (October - March)



Dark-eyed Junco

Description:

5–6 inches. The Dark-eyed Junco is a small gray bird with a white belly, often seen hopping on the ground in groups.

Habitat:

Forests, yards, parks, especially in winter.

Fun Fact:

Juncos are nicknamed “snowbirds” because they often appear when winter arrives.



White-throated Sparrow

Description:

6–7 inches. This sparrow has a bright white throat, striped head, and a clear, whistling song.

Habitat:

Forest edges, brushy areas, parks.

Fun Fact:

Its song sounds like “Oh sweet Canada, Canada, Canada.”